Mysore has been raised to a high level of administrative efficiency and economic prosperity. And the period of his reign has been described as the Golden age of Mysore. The motion before the House is to bemoan the demise of such a Maharaja who was the idol of his people and the maker of modern Mysore. I earnestly support the motion before the House.

The motion was put and carried unanimously, the whole House standing.

PRESIDENT: I have received two adjournment motions. I shall deal with them after 12 noon.

The House adjourned at 11.30 A. M. and met again at 12 noon.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House, which is as follows:

> "Under Rule 221 of the Assembly Rules, I beg leave for permission to move for the adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance *viz.*, to discuss the statement in the Hindu of 3rd August under the caption "Indian States and independence" and "Mr. Gandhi's article in the Harijan and its implication with regard to the sovereignty of the States."

In a matter of this kind, normally, the Chair would not have allowed a discussion because, incidentally, though only incidentally—it might raise questions affecting the relationship between States and the Paramount power. But in as much as questions have been raised which are of fundamental importance to the continued existence and the status of the Indian States and of Travancore in particular, I propose to make a statement on the matter leaving it to the honourable members of this House whether they would deem it necessary to pursue the matter. If they deem it necessary, I shall give them sufficient time to discuss the question although it might entrench upon the time for the Budget discussion.

With reference to the article by Mr. Gandhi in the "Harijan" headed "Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's Extravagances" and the remarks made by Mr. Katju who seems to be as emotional as he is talented; it is not my purpose to follow the example of either in bandying epithets and attributing lack of patriotism to others who do not agree with them. These are familiar tactics in certain political circles. The sense of disappointment and frustration on the part of Mr. Gandhi whose advice and whose philosophy have been set aside by his own followers is evidently responsible for the want of balance and moderation which characterises his latest production.

Speaking with reference to irrefutable facts and as a lawyer and student of politics, let me point out that in 1729 Maharaja Martanda Varma of Travancore consolidated his dominions and attained a position of unique importance in Kerala. In 1756, the Travancore State assisted the British in the Madura and Tinnevelly campaigns. The successor of Maharaja Martanda Varma was a steadfast ally of the

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[President]

British in the wars with Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan and he was included in the treaty of 1784 which described the Rajas of Travancore as friends and allies of the English. The British Government declared war on Tippu in consequence of a subsequent attack by Tippu Sultan on Travancore (their ally) and treaties were concluded in 1795 and 1805 between the British Government and Travancore in which, the Travancore Government sought the assistance of the British in protecting its frontiers and entered into certain stipulations therefor. At no time was Travancore conquered and in reply to Gandhi and Kailas Nath Katju it might be stated that the treaties were on the basis of two Sovereign States contracting with each other, one of which, no doubt, was much more powerful than the other and obtained favourable terms.

It is asserted that on account of the lapse of time and other circumstances, these treaties have ceased to operate. When it is remembered that the Ruler of Travancore entered into the treaty as representing the State and when it is seen that there are mutual rights and obligations created by the treaties, the morality of the argument would be obvious. Is it contended that on account of lapse of time the British Government cannot demand the payment of a tribute which was fixed on the express promise to protect Travancore from foreign enemies? Is it suggested that without entering into or being able to carry out such a guarantee the Congress or any other political entity should assume hegemony over the States?

Mr. Gandhi's present statement may be thus summarised:— 'India's claim (meaning thereby the claim of certain political bodies) will become irresistible and the British guarantee will be futile. The States should therefore not rely upon the treaties but upon the friendship with the Congress which incidentally has stated that the States have practically no right to exist and that the Rulers should regard themselves as entitled to no more than 200 to 300 rupees a month". (Vide Harijan dated July 13, 1940). I have never asserted that India or any other nation has no right either to self-determination or independence when and if self-determination and independence can be asserted on the basis of righteousness, strength and unity; but to ask that an unarmed India should discard even Dominion Status and the protection of the British Forces but should demand independence is to pursue a mirage and cling to the illusion that the doctrine of non-violence can be carried into effect in a world full of violence. Such an illusion is positively dangerous when preached at a time when the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence which was rarely accompanied by the practice of non-violence as proved by the various Satyagraha campaigns, is definitely cast aside by his own erstwhile followers. The present thesis of Mr. Gandhi is that the States should ignore their treaties, forget their legal obligations arising out of the protection granted to them in the past and claimable in the future from the British Government and rely on the promises of organisations which have declared open warfare against their ideals and work for an independence which will not be worth a moment's purchase. Does Mr. Gandhi's philosophy involve the doctrine that a people unconnected

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by ties of race and religion with the mass of Indians should after having been forced to abandon their historic connection with this country continue to protect by air, sea and land, a group of political leaders who have stated that they may or may not voluntarily choose to enter into a new contract with England. The Rulers and Administrators of Indian States are as patriotic as any member of the Congress or its retired leader. They are neither so simple nor so foolish as to believe that they can protect themselves in the present and safeguard themselves and their country in the future by following a path neither whose direction nor whose destination is comprehended. Those who talk of independence apparently treat it as coexisting with the British protection and a position of vantage which will enable them to build up a new order and in passing to destroy the individuality and the status of the Indian States.

I wanted to make this position clear because the policy of this State will be guided by these principles, and if after hearing this statement the honourable members wish to continue discussion of the adjournment motion, I shall give them time for that purpose.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I do not press the motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: I do not press it.

PRESIDENT: The House will now resume discussion on Budget Demands.

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND NO. XXVIII—COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT—(*contd.*)

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): In regard to the carrying of luggage in the Transport service, certain tremendous difficulties are being experienced by the travelling public. It is only in garages porters are employed. Before the introduction of the Transport service, the travellers themselves were taking their luggages at their own expense to whatever places they moved. They paid out of their pockets expenses for loading and unloading besides the charge for carrying it in bus. Now, the matter is different. The porters are appointed only in garages. They are paid something for their work then and there. They have no fixed pay at all. As regards conductors, it is too much to ask graduate conductors to load and unload articles of passengers. Ordinarily passengers themselves are shy of asking them to do that. That has to be remedied.

Another point that arises in this connection is this. Once payment has been made for the luggage in the Transport service, no further payment should be demanded by the authorities for unloading the luggage. It must be their duty to unload it in the place required by the traveller. I myself have experienced such difficulties. No double payment is to be exacted from the travelling public in respect of luggage.

In this connection I would also refer to the overloading of buses, and also the fact that there are some irregularities in the matter of keeping of time. I know that some conductors do not keep their time. They exceed the time.

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